

REMARKS

Claim 1 remains pending in the present application. The rejection set forth in the Office Action is respectfully traversed below.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over **Nakazawa et al.** (USP 5,967,489) in view of **Ramberg** (USP 5,433,454). It is submitted nothing in the prior art, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests all the features recited in the present claimed invention as amended.

For instance, independent claim 1 recites the relationship “wherein D_m is smaller than D_o , and by making D_g smaller than D_o and D_o equal to D_p , D_m obtained by $D_m = D_o \cdot \cosine \theta$ is increased, where D_m represents a diameter of the slanting main passageway, D_o represents a diameter of the opening passageway, D_g represents an inside diameter of the gasket, D_p represents an inside diameter of the gasket holding annular ridge, and θ represents an angle the butting end face makes with a longitudinal direction of the slanting main passageway.” This is supported, for example, by the description at page 8, lines 8-14 of the present application. In order for the main passageway to have a “*maximum* diameter corresponding to the diameter of the opening passageway” as stated on page 8, the value of $D_o \cdot \cosine \theta$ (which gives D_m) must be increased to its maximum (*see, e.g.,* attached explanatory Fig. A).

Nothing in **Nakazawa** specifically discloses this claimed feature. In addition, there is no teaching or motivation to modify **Nakazawa** to increase D_m in the equation $D_m = D_o \cdot \cosine \theta$ with D_m being $< D_o$, and by making $D_g < D_o$ and $D_o = D_p$. Indeed, the problems identified and

addressed by the present application is directed to obtaining the optimal construction of a fluid coupling having a slanted main passageway. Since **Ramberg** does not even have a slanting main passageway, there is no motivation to modify **Nakazawa** with the teachings of **Ramberg** in order to achieve the specific claimed relationship identified above. For at least these reasons, the present claimed invention patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP



John P. Kong
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 40,054

JPK/kal
Atty. Docket No. 991283
Suite 1000, 1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Version with markings to show changes made
Explanatory Fig. A



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE 09/437,296

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been **AMENDED** to read as follows:

1. (Amended) A fluid coupling comprising:

first and second coupling members having respective gasket holding annular ridges on butting end faces thereof[,] and

an annular gasket interposed between two coupling members, [the fluid coupling being characterized in that]

wherein each coupling member has a fluid channel comprising an opening passageway orthogonal to the butting end face thereof, and a slanting main passageway communicating therewith, and [having a diameter smaller than the diameter of the opening passageway, the diameter of the opening passageway being equal to the inside diameter of the annular ridge, the gasket having an inside diameter smaller than the diameter of the opening passageway]

wherein D_m is smaller than D_o , and by making D_g smaller than D_o and D_o equal to D_p , D_m obtained by $D_m = D_o \cdot \cosine \theta$ is increased, where D_m represents a diameter of the slanting main passageway, D_o represents a diameter of the opening passageway, D_g represents an inside diameter of the gasket, D_p represents an inside diameter of the gasket holding annular ridge, and θ represents an angle the butting end face makes with a longitudinal direction of the slanting main passageway.

RECEIVED

MAR 24 2003

GROUP 3600